S. HRG. 98-305

NOMINATION OF PHILIP ABRAMS

HEARING

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS UNITED STATES SENATE

NINETY-EIGHTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

ON

THE NOMINATION OF PHILIP ABRAMS TO BE UNDER SECRETARY IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

SEPTEMBER 16, 1983

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NOMINATION OF PHILIP ABRAMS TO BE UNDER SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1983

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D.C.

The Committee met, at 9:30 a.m., in room SD–538, of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, Senator Jake Garn (chairman of the committee) presiding.

Present: Senators Garn, D'Amato, and Sasser.

OPENING REMARKS OF CHAIRMAN GARN

The CHAIRMAN. The committee will come to order. The purpose of this morning's hearing is to consider the nomination of Philip Abrams to be Under Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Mr. Abrams, I understand you have a statement you wish to make.

Mr. ABRAMS. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Before you do, before I forget, you've been around so long, we know you so well, but I need to swear you in again.

[Witness sworn.]

The CHAIRMAN. Please proceed.

STATEMENT OF PHILIP ABRAMS

Mr. ABRAMS. Mr. Chairman, I'm pleased to be here today as the nominee for the position of Under Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development. I'm honored to be nominated for a second important post by President Reagan. More than anything else I appreciate having the continued confidence of Secretary Pierce, who is the finest person whom I've ever worked for.

Last year as I sat before you, I spoke of the continuing challenges of providing for the housing needs of our Nation. I've had the responsibility of being Assistant Secretary for Housing and the FHA Commissioner during a dramatic return of housing and homeownership opportunities, progress sparked by President Reagan's economic recovery program, which has resulted in lower mortgage interest rates and how we were able to supplement the efforts of the housing industry by effectively providing FHA mortgage insurance and by advocating and implementing deregulatory activities.

We also have implemented management and statutory changes that allow us to better utilize our assisted housing resources, to increase the quantity and quality of housing available to low income families.

However, much remains to be done to wipe out our most pressing challenge: the affordability gap for homeowners and renters at all income levels. Whatever has been accomplished in the past 2 years to improve FHA in the delivery of housing assistance to those in need is a direct reflection of the skills and efforts of the thousands of HUD employees who work in these housing programs. I'm gratified to continually see evidence of the dedication and outstanding caliber of the vast majority of our career and noncareer people, many of whom are here with me today, as a matter of fact.

I now look forward to the vital management responsibilities of the position of Under Secretary. I'm committed to providing and improving fair housing opportunities by working to eradicate any residual impact of discrimination in America's housing markets. Those of us who believe in free market solutions to the country's housing problems know that until bigotry is eradicated, opportunity cannot be assured.

I am especially interested in assisting Secretary Pierce's initiative to secure enterprise zone legislation as a necessary complement to the present tools available to accomplish the economic revitalization of the Nation's distressed neighborhoods.

I look forward to working together with Members of Congress and their staffs to continue our joint efforts to improve housing opportunities for all Americans and the economic growth of our Nation's communities.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much.

Mr. Abrams, I'm pleased with your combination of—I've known you for several years and worked with you. I think you've done an excellent job in your position at HUD, and I think Secretary Pierce and the President are to be complimented for nominating you for this higher position within the Department. I'm sure you've been around long enough to know, the fact that there's no one here but me, and that indicates that you will have no problems with your confirmation. If someone is controversial and is going to have a difficult time, we have a large attendance here. I often tell that to witness who are less experienced than you to not feel hurt, feel complimented. If they did want to oppose your nomination, they'd be here in force asking you many questions.

You were confirmed by this committee to be Assistant Secretary of HUD a year ago. At the confirmation hearing you made several commitments regarding financial conflicts of interest. I've been informed by the Office of Government Ethics and the HUD General Counsel's Office that you have complied with those commitments; is that correct?

Mr. ABRAMS. That's correct.

The CHAIRMAN. You're still willing to comply?

Mr. ABRAMS. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Will you continue your compliance, specifically, by taking no part in the management of Abreen, Inc., Abreen Corp., Abrams Corp., Rivergate Co., and Mahanoy and Norristown

Partnerships, by not permitting those companies to do any HUD-financed work or by recusing yourself from any matter dealing with State financed units receiving section 236 assistance?

Mr. ABRAMS. I will.

The CHAIRMAN. What you're saying is that you will avoid even the appearance of conflict of interest in your service as Under Secretary?

Mr. ABRAMS. I will.

The CHAIRMAN. Do you agree to appear and testify before this committee and other committees duly constituted by the Congress, when asked?

Mr. ABRAMS. I will.

The CHAIRMAN. What do you think your major accomplishments have been, as you've been, Assistant Secretary for Housing?

Mr. ABRAMS. It's hard to pick out any one particular item that would be the major accomplishment, but I think, in general, we have done a lot of things that will make homeownership more affordable and available to people throughout the country. FHA initiatives to reduce underwriting standards, to improve processing in the field offices, to deregulate and remove as much as possible any federally caused increase in the cost of a house through overregulation, providing new mortgage instruments, proposing constructive suggestions to the Congress on new mortgage instruments that would increase the types of alternative mortgages that we can make available.

Affordability is a difficult problem for people who want to buy homes. You only have to look at the effects of the recent upswing in interest rates to see just how sensitive the industry is. Yet, at the same time, we know that millions of people want to become homeowners and will be frustrated, if they aren't able to achieve that opportunity.

As far as assisted housing, I'm particularly happy with some of our accomplishments in public housing. While working with the housing authorities, we have been able to address a lot of the problems, both in management, but more particularly with the deterioration that had taken place in the public housing stock. And we see a significant amount of progress, both in the attitude of upper housing management and in the accomplishments in the last several years. I think it is going to continue to improve, and we're going to be able to fully utilize the Federal investment in public housing, and we're going to be able to provide safe and decent housing for all residents of public housing.

As far as assisted housing in general is concerned, the change in the approach to emphasizing the existing housing stock and expanding existing programs, including proposals that would enhance the use of vouchers, allows us to assist a great many more people. And as HUD has explored with you, there are numbers of families that need assistance, and we could be assisting, if we more effectively directed our efforts toward those in the greatest need and toward the greatest utilization of the moneys appropriated by Congress. I think we made a lot of steps toward improving the programs, toward reducing the cost of providing for assistance, which translates into providing assistance for more people with the funds that we have available.

The CHAIRMAN. Do you have specific goals that you hope to achieve in your new position as Under Secretary?

Mr. ABRAMS. I hope to be of assistance to the Secretary in relieving him from some of the day-to-day problems of managing a big business, which is what HUD is, and to allow him more time to be able to work with the Congress in developing a lot of the initiatives that he has been working on and generally giving him a feeling that he has support behind him, as he has had, and that he can deal with the major issues facing housing and the Department, and let me deal with things that he feels he doesn't have to become involved with on a day-to-day basis.

The CHAIRMAN. Senator Sasser, do you have any questions you wish to ask?

OPENING STATEMENT OF SENATOR SASSER

Senator SASSER. Mr. Chairman, I'd like to make just a brief statement, if I may.

I want to join you, Mr. Chairman, this morning, in welcoming Mr. Abrams back before the Banking Committee. He's appeared here in other capacities in the past, and as one member of this committee, I appreciate his expertise in matters affecting this country's housing programs. I think that your record of service at HUD, Mr. Abrams, makes you a logical choice for the post of Under Secretary of the Department.

I'm going to be supporting your confirmation. I'd also like to note that I'm very much encouraged about the future, particularly after the responsive attitude you have shown in recent conversations. As you know, relations between HUD and my State of Tennessee are in need of improvement. I'm looking foward to major progress in that area, and I appreciate your willingness to work with me and other members of our delegation in that regard.

A little less than 16 months remain, Mr. Chairman, in this administration to accomplish the goals that Mr. Abrams has set for his tenure as Under Secretary. Thirty-four years ago, in the Housing Act of 1949, the Congress set as a national policy that the primary goal ought to be, and I quote "a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family."

Now considering where we are in 1983, Mr. Abrams, I won't expect you to accomplish that in the 16 months that you have remaining in your tenure as Under Secretary.

The CHAIRMAN. Some of us expect he'll have 64 months. [Laughter.]

Senator SASSER. May or may not, Mr. Chairman.

In any case, we know he has got 16 months, and I expect to work with him in the months ahead toward achieving what I hope are some common goals. It's a tough job and you've got a tough road ahead, but I've got confidence in your ability to get the job done.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much, Senator Sasser. Senator D'Amato.

OPENING STATEMENT OF SENATOR D'AMATO

Senator D'AMATO. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Let me say, Mr. Chairman, that I have a statement for the record, which I would like to include in its entirety.

Suffice it to say that I have had the opportunity to work with our nominee, Mr. Abrams. He demonstrates a thorough understanding of housing needs and problems. He is able to balance the goals and objectives of the administration with some of the practical considerations of the real world. At times, the OMB, I think, may be asking for the impossible. But Phil Abrams has balanced these interests and done it well.

He is a man of integrity. When he indicates, as he has before this committee, that he will review a problem, it is not just a hollow bureacratic response. He really does respond to it. Sometimes we do not agree in the final analysis, but Phil's straightforward approach make him a pleasure to work with.

I have not seen enough of that attitude. Many of those appearing before this committee will tell us anything. Once they are out the door, they are gone, not to be heard of again till the next time they come before the committee. That has not been the case with Phil Abrams.

Mr. Chairman, let me just indicate my strong support for the nominee, Mr. Abrams, and also my best wishes, because this is a difficult job, and I could not think of someone who was more capable to fulfill its responsibilities.

[The complete statement follows:]

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STATEMENT OF SENATOR ALFONSE D'AMATO AT THE
NOMINATION HEARINGS OF PHILIP ABRAMS TO BE UNDER SECRETARY
OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
SEPTEMBER 16, 1983

FIRST, I WOULD LIKE TO COMMEND THE PRESIDENT ON HIS EXCELLENT CHOICE FOR THE POSITION OF UNDER SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT. I THINK I CAN SPEAK FOR EVERYONE WHO HAS HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH PHIL ABRAMS IN SAYING THAT HE IS A MAN OF IMPECCABLE INTEGRITY, EXTRAORDINARY ENERGY, AND UNQUESTIONED COMPETENCE. IN HIS EXTENSIVE CAREER EXPERIENCE IN BOTH THE PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTORS, PHIL HAS EARNED HIMSELF THE REPUTATION OF ONE WHO "IS ALWAYS ON THE JOB."

IN HIS MOST RECENT POST OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, PHIL HAS DEMONSTRATED A QUIET DETERMINATION TO TACKLE EVEN THE MOST DIFFICULT OF PROBLEMS WITH A CONCILLIATORY AND COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE. HE HAS BEEN CONSISTENTLY ACCESSIBLE TO CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES AND THEIR CONSTITUENTS ON A BIPARTISAN -- OR NONPARTISAN, IF YOU WILL -- BASIS.

IN THESE EXCHANGES, PHIL HAS DEMONSTRATED A WILLINGNESS AND ABILITY TO LISTEN AND DISCUSS WITH AN OPEN MIND THE VERY DIFFICULT PROBLEMS AND POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS CURRENTLY FACING HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN THIS COUNTRY.

FEW ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN ASKED TO DO MORE, WITH LESS, THAN PHIL ABRAMS HAS. HIS VAST EXPERIENCE AND PRACTICAL "HANDS ON" APPROACH HAVE ALLOWED HIM TO RISE TO THAT TASK. I AM CERTAIN THAT HE WILL UTILIZE THESE SAME PERSONAL RESOURCES IN FULFILLING THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE UNDER SECRETARY POST.

THUS, I URGE THIS COMMITTEE AND THE FULL SENATE TO ACT FAVORABLY ON HIS NOMINATION.

Mr. ABRAMS. Thank you, Senator.

The CHAIRMAN. I have no additional questions. I told you when you came in that it would last 15 minutes, because I didn't know of any opposition. I'm sure the vast majority of the committee agrees with the comments that I have made, Senator Sasser and Senator D'Amato, so we will push your confirmation through as rapidly as we can, commend you for the job you have done, and look forward to working with you in the future. Senator Trible and Senator Heinz have submitted statements that will be inserted in the record.

[Statements of Senators Trible and Heinz follow:]

STATEMENT OF SENATOR TRIBLE

Senator TRIBLE. Mr. Abrams is a man of proven integrity and ability, and he has my full support for his nomination to be Under Secretary of Housing. He has willingly assisted my office on a number of occasions. Most important, he has demonstrated an ability to think innovatively about our housing problems, and I believe that quality will be of great value in establishing a rational, forward-looking housing policy for the future.

STATEMENT OF SENATOR HEINZ

Senator HEINZ. It is a pleasure for me to have this opportunity to endorse the nomination of Phil Abrams to be Under Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development [HUD]. My association with Mr. Abrams over the last 2½ years has given me utmost respect for his skills, his energy, and his determination to carry forward the housing policies of this administration.

As the Under Secretary-designate knows quite well, I am not always in agreement with those policies and/or his specific initiatives. I am confident, however, that in spite of his expanded responsibilities in HUD, Mr. Abrams will continue to work in an open and cooperative manner with members of the committee, especially, I would hope those who share his party affiliation. By continuing to let Member's offices know in advance of HUD's initiatives on issues of special concern, we can assure greater cooperation in the next 6 years. Such cooperation is essential if Congress and the administration are ever going to succeed in developing and enacting an authorization bill for housing and community development, rather than continuing to rely on annual HUD appropriation bills.

Our inability over the last 2 years to reach an accord on authorizing legislation for Federal housing programs, has been a source of great and continuing frustration to me. It is not only damages the integrity of the Senate's fundamental structure of authorizing and appropriating committees, it leaves Federal housing policy for the 1980's in limbo.

As a Senator from the northeastern and urban State of Pennsylvania and as chairman of the Senate Special Committee on Aging, I have very specific interests in the health of public housing, the decency and affordability of subsidized private rental units, the potential contributions of neighborhood nonprofit organizations, and the adequacy of housing for the Nation's elderly families. Additionally, in light of my dual membership on the Senate Finance Committee and the Senate Banking Committees, I am heavily involved

in the various tax incentives and mortgage assistance and insurance programs operating in the private housing market. This is not an all-inclusive list, but these are some of my major concerns where I expect to be deeply involved with you and others.

What troubles me most is that Federal policymaking in these areas has become an on-again, off-again exercise. It is a reactive ritual rather than a proactive process. The administration makes its housing and community development proposals in its annual budget submission to Congress. The House Authorizing Committee immediately counterattacks with liberal spending initiatives. The Senate committee reflects for a moment and attempts to develop a bipartisan bill under the leadership of the chairman of the Banking Committee, Senator Garn. The positions are established, the jockeying continues and then we all stand aside and watch the annual HUD appropriations process take the wind of our sails.

Mr. Abrams, I would hope that in your new position with the administration you will do your utmost to guarantee the passage of an authorization bill for housing and commuinity development as soon as possible. I applaud the administration for nominating one so energetic and so committed to formulating consistent and fiscally responsible policy. I look forward with confidence to continuing my productive association with you, Mr. Abrams, and hope that we can together overcome the current roadblocks to responsible Federal housing and community development policy.

Mr. ABRAMS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much.

[Whereupon, at 9:45 a.m., the hearing was adjourned.]

[Complete biographical sketch follows:]

STATEMENT FOR COMPLETION BY PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEES

Name: ABRAMS (LAST) PHILIP (FIRST) (NMN) (OTHER)

Position to which nominated: Under Secretary, Dept. of Housing and Urban Development

Date of nomination: August 19, 1983

Date of birth: 13 November 1939 (DAY) (MONTH) (YEAR)

Place of birth: Boston, Massachusetts

Marital status: married

Full name of spouse: Rosalyn Merle Heifetz Abrams

Name and ages of children: Mark Solomon Abrams (10)
Jonathan Samuel Abrams (8)
Daniel Jason Abrams (5)

Education:

Institution	Dates attended	Degrees received	Dates of degrees
Brookline High School (MA)	1953-1957	N/A	
Williams College (MA)	1957-1961	B.A.	1961
Northeastern Univ. (MA)	1965-1966	N/A	

Honors and awards: List below all scholarships, fellowships, honorary degrees, military medals, honorary society memberships, and any other special recognitions for outstanding service or achievement.

Engineering News - Record (McGraw-Hill)
One of construction industry's "Men Who Made Marks"
1975-1976

Memberships: List below all memberships and offices held in professional, fraternal, business, scholarly, civic, charitable and other organizations.

Organization	Office held (if any)	Dates
Associated Builders & Contractors, Inc. (Member since 1967)	National President	1975
"	President, New England Yankee Chapter	1970
"	Assistant Treasurer	1971
"	Treasurer	1972
"	First Vice President	1973-74
"	Executive Committee	1971-76
"	Chairman, Legislative Committee	1977

** (CONTINUED ON PAGE 2a) **

Employment record: List below all positions held since college, including the title or description of job, name of employment, location of work, and dates of inclusive employment.

1. Construction work: Poley Abrams Corp., 45 Bartlett Crescent, Brookline, MA; Jun 61-Nov 61
2. Officer; U.S. Navy; USS Enterprise; Nov 61-Jan 65
3. Construction work: Poley Abrams Corp., 45 Bartlett Crescent, Brookline, MA; Jan 65-Aug 66 (posn: Superintendent & Project Mgr.)
4. Treasurer; Abreen Corp., Brookline, MA Aug 66-Mar 81
5. General Deputy Assistant Secretary--Deputy Federal Hsg. Commissioner U.S. Dept. of HUD; Washington, DC; Mar 81-Oct 82
6. Assistant Secretary for Housing--Federal Housing Commissioner U.S. Dept. of HUD; Washington, DC; Oct 82-present

ABRAMS, Philip

Memberships: List below all memberships and offices held in professional, fraternal, business, scholarly, civic, charitable and other organizations.

(continued)

Organization	Office held (if any)	Dates
Associated Builders & Contractors, Inc.	National Director	1980-81
American Institute of Constructors	(member)	1972-pres.
Associated General Contractors of America, Mass. Chapter	(member)	1972-1981
National Construction Industry Council	Chairman	1976-78
National Defense Executive Reserve (Dept. of Commerce)		1980-81
Wellesley (MA) Lodge, AF&AM		1970-pres.

** (CONTINUED ON PAGE 2b) **

Employment record: List below all positions held since college, including the title or description of job, name of employment, location of work, and dates of inclusive employment.

Memberships: List below all memberships and offices held in professional, fraternal, business, scholarly, civic, charitable and other organizations.

(continued)

Organization	Office held (if any)	Dates
Foundation for Brookline Housing	Director	
Shawmut Credit Union, Boston, MA	Director	1973
B'nai B'rith Architects-Engineers Lodge	Secretary	

Employment record: List below all positions held since college, including the title or description of job, name of employment, location of work, and dates of inclusive employment.

ABRAMS, Philip

Government experience: List any experience in or direct association with Federal, State, or local governments, including any advisory, consultative, honorary or other part-time service or positions.

Governor Sargent's Advisory Committee on the Construction Industry Member, 1971-72

Brookline Redevelopment Authority, Member (Governor's Appointee), 1971-74

Governor King's Transition Team, Exec. Office of Community Development, Member, 1978

Selective Service Board, Brookline, Mass.

Nonunion Construction Wage and Price Control Board during President Nixon's Wage and Price controls

Published writings: List the titles, publishers and dates of books, articles, reports or other published materials you have written.

None

Political affiliations and activities: List all memberships and offices held in and services rendered to all political parties or election committees during the last 10 years.

a. Newton, Mass. Republican City Committee, Member, 1978 to 1981.

Newton, Mass. Republican City Committee, Executive Commiteee Member 1978-1981.

Newton, Mass. Ward 5 Republican Committee, Chairman, 1980-81

b. Worked on campaigns for:
Martin Linsky - Republican nominee; Mass. Fourth Congressional District (fundraising; campaign worker)

** (CONTINUED ON PAGE 3a) **

ABRAMS, Philip

Government experience: List any experience in or direct association with Federal, State, or local governments, including any advisory, consultative, honorary or other part-time service or positions.

Published writings: List the titles, publishers and dates of books, articles, reports or other published materials you have written.

Political affiliations and activities: List all memberships and offices held in and services rendered to all political parties or election committees during the last 10 years.

(continued)

b.

Arthur Mason	Republican candidate; Mass. Fourth Congressional District (fundraising; campaign worker)
Dick Jones	Republican candidate; Mass. Fourth Congressional District (fundraising; campaign worker)
Avi Nelson	Loser to Sen. Brooke in Mass. Republican Primary (fundraiser; campaign worker)
Fourth Congressional District Caucus to select Reagan delegation to Republican Convention in 1980	
Margaret Heckler	Republican candidate; Mass. Fourth Congressional District (pollworker)

ABRAMS, Philip

Political contributions: Itemize all political contributions of $500 or more to any individual, campaign organization, political party, political action committee or similar entity during the last eight years and identify the specific amounts, dates, and names of the recipients.

Governor Reagan	-	$1,000 (1976)
ABC Political Action Committee	-	$1,000 (1976-1979)
Linsky for Congress	-	$1,000 (1972)
Nelson for Senate	-	$1,000 (1978)
Mason for Congress	-	$1,000 (1980)
Hatch for Governor	-	$1,000 (1980)
Republican Senate House Dinner	-	$1,000 (1981)

Qualifications: State fully your qualifications to serve in the position to which you have been named. (attach sheet)

I served as General Deputy Assistant Secretary for Housing from March 1981 until October 1, 1982 and as Assistant Secretary for Housing since October 1, 1982.

Future employment relationships:

1. Indicate whether you will sever all connections with your present employer, business firm, association or organization if you are confirmed by the Senate.

I have resigned all corporate and association offices but retain stock and partnership interests in several closely-held businesses. (see attachment)

2. As far as can be foreseen, state whether you have any plans after completing government service to resume employment, affiliation or practice with your previous employer, business firm, association or organization.

I will probably resume role as a construction company executive.

3. Has anybody made you a commitment to a job after you leave government?

No

4. Do you expect to serve the full term for which you have been appointed?

Yes

ABRAMS, Philip

Potential conflicts of interest:

1. Describe any financial arrangements or deferred compensation agreements or other continuing dealings with business associates, clients or customers who will be affected by policies which you will influence in the position to which you have been nominated.

I am on leave of absence from Abreen Corp. which continues to furnish and bill me for life and health insurance. Also, (SEE ATTACHMENT)

2. List any investments, obligations, liabilities, or other relationships which might involve potential conflicts of interest with the position to which you have been nominated.

SEE ATTACHMENT

3. Describe any business relationship, dealing or financial transaction (other than tax-paying) which you have had during the last 10 years with the Federal Government, whether for yourself, on behalf of a client, or acting as an agent, that might in any way constitute or result in a possible conflict of interest with the position to which you have been nominated.

SEE ATTACHMENT

ABRAMS, Philip

4. List any lobbying activity during the past 10 years in which you have engaged for the purpose of directly or indirectly influencing the passage, defeat or modification of any legislation at the national level of government or affecting the administration and execution of national law or public policy.

- Against *Common Situs* Picketing
- For Repeal or Reform of Davis-Bacon Act
- Against Labor Law Reform Bill
- For Amendments to Hobbs Act
- For establishing a Federal office of construction at Commerce Dept.

5. Explain how you will resolve any potential conflict of interest that may be disclosed by your responses to the above items.

SEE ATTACHMENT

Civil, criminal and investigatory actions:

1. Give the full details of any civil or criminal proceeding in which you were a defendant or any inquiry or investigation by a Federal, State, or local agency in which you were the subject of the inquiry or investigation.

I am a joint defendant in a civil suit requesting a cash reserve for potential claims on a construction project. Since the suit was filed, my former company was successful in winning an arbitration award which obviates the suit.

2. Give the full details of any proceeding, inquiry or investigation by any professional association including any bar association in which you were the subject of the proceeding, inquiry or investigation.

NONE

ATTACHMENT TO STATEMENT FOR COMPLETION BY PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEES

Philip Abrams

I will retain the following financial interests which are, or could be, related to HUD or its programs:

1. 50% stockholder in Abreen Corp. (construction)

2. 50% stockholder in Abreen, Inc. (construction)

3. 50% stockholder in J. Abrams Construction Corp.

4. 50% stockholder in Rivergate Construction Co., Inc.

5. General partner in Mahanoy Building Associates (construction)

6. General partner in Norristown Building Associates (construction)

7. Limited partner in Roberts-Amherst Associates (owns state financed project which receives interest reduction payments and rent subsidies under Sec. 236 of the National Housing Act).

8. Limited partner in Roberts-Milford Associates (owns state financed project which receives interest reduction payments and rent subsidies under Sec. 236 of the National Housing Act).

9. Note from Lawrence Green (other 50% stockholder in Abreen Corp.) financing sale of land and corporate stock in Salem, New Hampshire.

The four corporations listed as items 1-4 will do no HUD-financed work during my HUD service.

The two partnerships listed as items 5 and 6 will do no new work (HUD-financed or otherwise) and I will take no part in their management during my HUD service.

With respect to the two partnerships which own HUD-subsidized projects, as a limited partner I will have no role in their management and mere ownership is not prohibited by HUD regulations. In addition, I have been advised that, under 18 USC Sec. 208, I may not act in any matter which may have a direct and predictable outcome on the financial interest of these partnerships. I have instructed my staff to bypass me on such matters.

Mr. Green will continue to develop HUD multifamily projects independently of me.

Philip Abrams

National Association of Home Builders

15th and M Streets, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005

Telex 89-2600 (202) 822-0400

Harry Pryde
1983 President

September 16, 1983

The Honorable Jake Garn
Chairman
Committee on Banking, Housing
and Urban Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of the more than 112,000 members of the National Association of Home Builders, I am writing to urge rapid consideration of the nomination of Philip Abrams to be Under Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development. We believe that is is important for the housing industry today that this vital position be filled by a candidate of Phil's impressive qualifications.

We are pleased to support his nomination. Phil's background in housing development and management as well as his service as a member of the Brookline Redevelopment Authority and his long association with Associated Builders and Contractors give him a wide breadth of experience well suited to his job. In addition, we have worked closely with Phil during his tenure as Assistant Secretary for Housing - FHA Commissioner and believe that he has shown the qualities of intelligence, analytical ability, managerial ability and concern for housing which will be of great value to HUD and to this Administration.

Mr. Chairman, we hope that you will move quickly to approve this nomination which is of importance to housing at this critical time.

I would respectfully request that this letter be included in the hearing. We appreciate this opportunity to present our views.

Sincerely,

Harry Pryde
President

Housing—Shelter for the People/Jobs for the Economy

○